

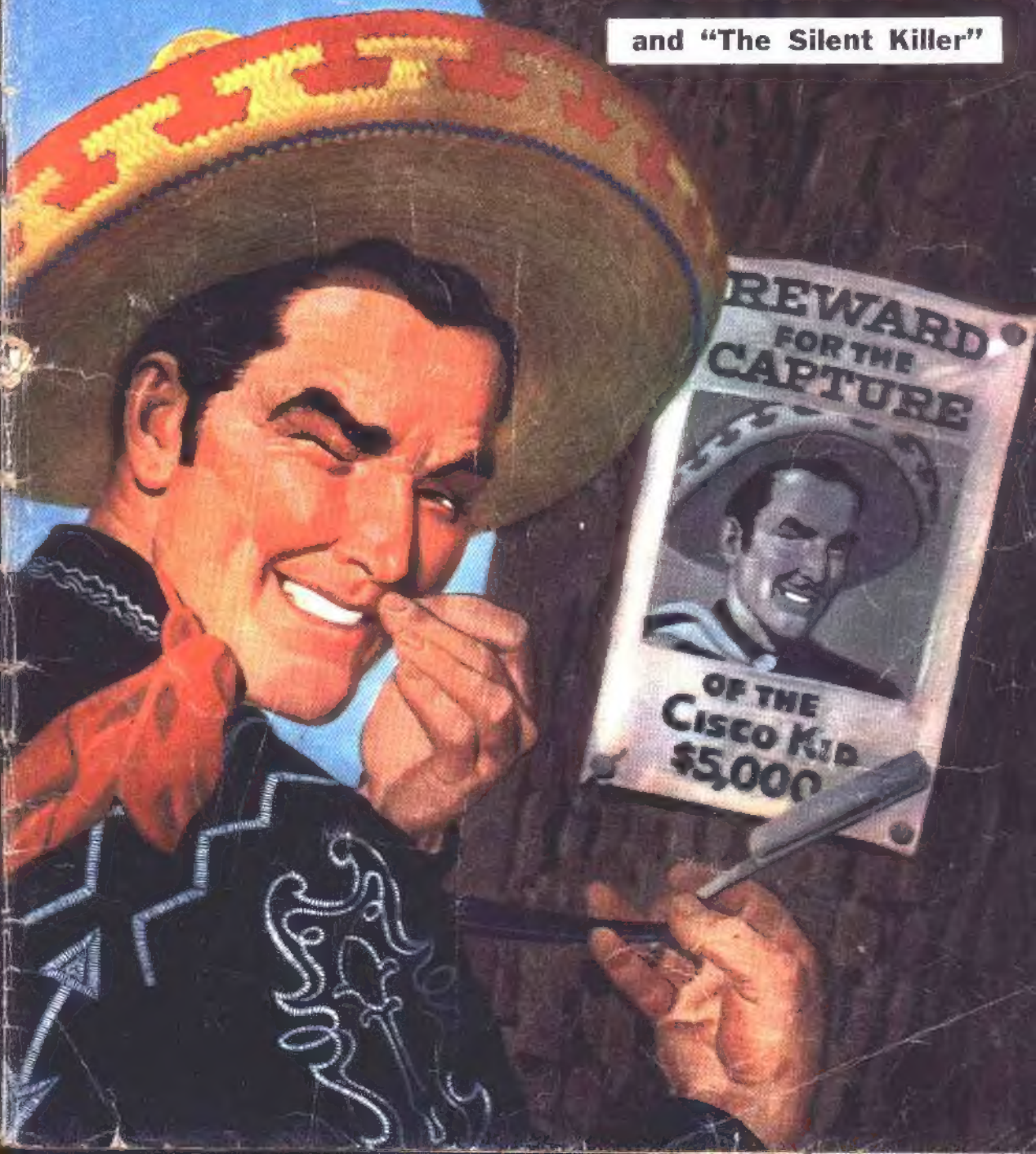
DELL

NO. 3 10¢

THE

# CISCO KID

and "The Silent Killer"



# WESTERN TRAILS



ONE OF THE LONGEST AND MOST HAZARDOUS OF THE TRAILS TO THE NEW WEST WAS THE OREGON TRAIL! IT WAS AN EMMIGRANT ROUTE TO THE OREGON COUNTRY ABOUT 2000 MILES LONG, USED ESPECIALLY BETWEEN 1804 AND 1846! IT STARTED AT INDEPENDENCE, NEBRASKA, FOLLOWING UP THE PLATTE TO FORT LARAMIE, THENCE ACROSS WYOMING! IT WENT OVER THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS TO FORTS BRIDGER AND HALL, DOWN THE SNAKE RIVER, ACROSS OREGON TO THE COLUMBIA RIVER AND FORT VANCOUVER!

THE SANTA FE TRAIL CAME INTO BEING WHEN CAPTAIN WILLIAM BECKNELL, WITH FOUR COMPANIONS LED THE FIRST ORGANIZED EXPEDITION FROM FRANKLIN, MISSOURI, TO SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO, ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1821!

THIS TRAIL WAS LATER TO BECOME A ROAD TRAVELED BY PRAIRIE SCHOONERS IN DEVELOPING THE SOUTHWEST, AND TODAY IS A FINE CONCRETE HIGHWAY FOR AUTOMOBILES!



# THE CISCO KID AND THE SILENT KILLER

ONE DAY, THE CISCO KID AND PANTO RIDE OUT OF A PASS IN THE SANTA LUCIA RANGE...

SUCH A BEAUTIFUL VALLEY, CISCO! WHAT IS IT CALLED?

SAN ANTONIO! IT WAS DISCOVERED BY SPANISH PADRES MANY YEARS AGO!

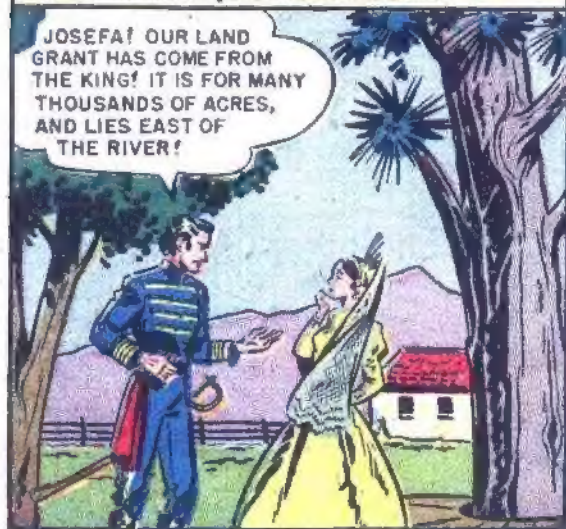


HERE THEY BUILT THE MISSION OF SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA.



"THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY WAS SETTLED BY ARMY OFFICERS, THE PROTECTORS OF THE MISSION, AND GREAT RANCHOS CAME INTO BEING."

JOSEFA! OUR LAND GRANT HAS COME FROM THE KING! IT IS FOR MANY THOUSANDS OF ACRES, AND LIES EAST OF THE RIVER!



"ONE OF THE GREATEST WAS THAT OF DON MIQUEL ARGUELLO. IT COVERED FORTY THOUSAND ACRES."

SOME DAY, PABLO, MY SON, THIS RANCH WILL BE YOURS! I HOPE IT BRINGS YOU THE HAPPINESS IT HAS BROUGHT ME!

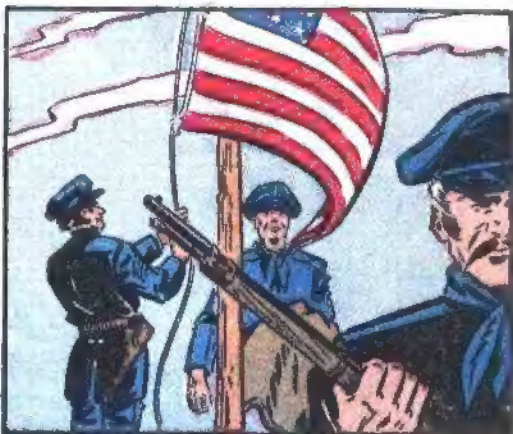


"BUT THE RANCHO BROUGHT PABLO ONLY TRAGEDY. FIRST, HIS ELDEST DAUGHTER ELOPED WITH AN AMERICAN."

PABLO! PLEASE FORGIVE HER!

NEVER! FROM THIS DAY FORTH, I HAVE NO DAUGHTER NAMED CONCHA!

"THEN THE UNITED STATES TOOK CALIFORNIA FROM MEXICO..."



"AND THE GREAT RANCHOS WERE NO MORE..."

A CURSE UPON THE AMERICANOS! THE DESPOILERS OF MY LAND! MAY ALL MY DESCENDANTS HATE THEM FOREVER!



WELL, AMIGO, HOW DID YOU LIKE THAT STORY?

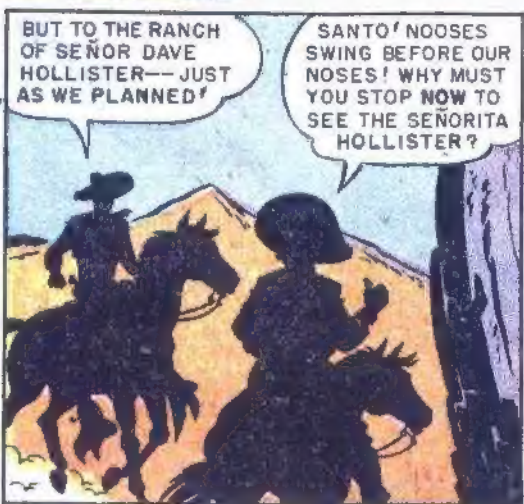
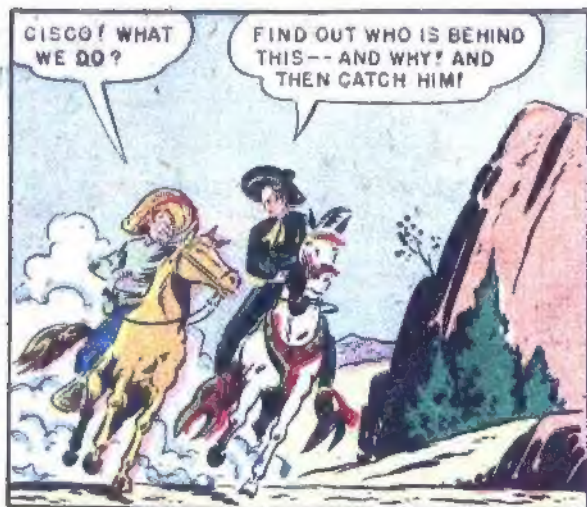
BUENO! EVEN PANGHO NOT COULD MAKE UP A MORE BETTER ONE!

AND PANGHO'S MAMACITA SAY HE IS VERY GOOD AT STORY TELLING! ONLY SHE CALL IT FIBBING!

BUT THAT WAS A TRUE STORY!





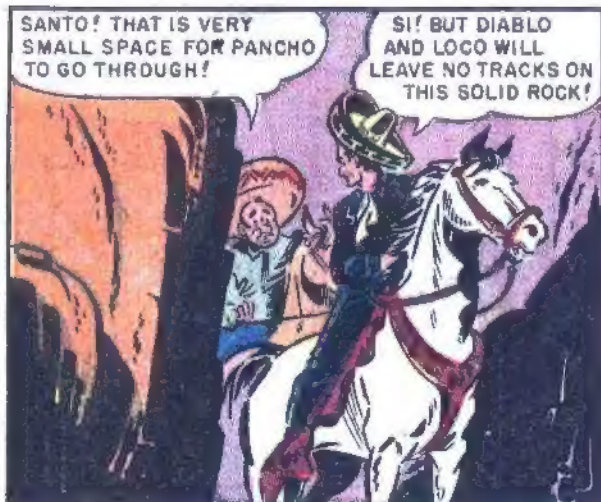


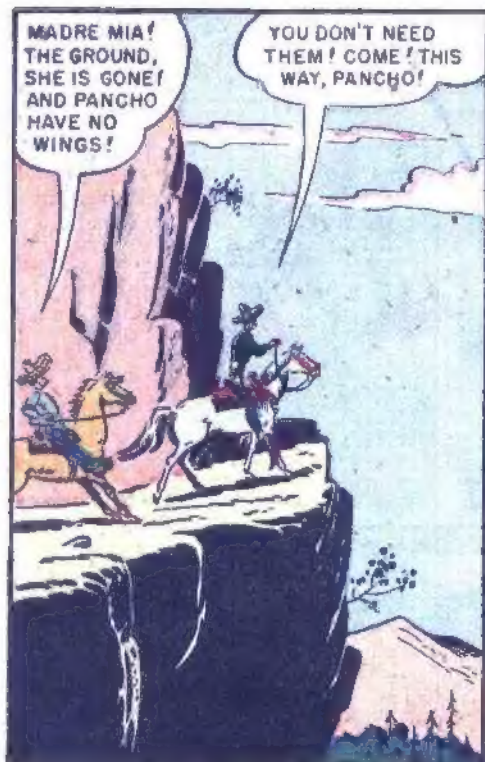
BECAUSE SHE AND HER FATHER ARE OUR FRIENDS! WE WILL BE SAFE AT THEIR RANCH UNTIL WE CAN TRACK DOWN THE REAL MURDERER!











MADRE MIA!  
THE GROUND,  
SHE IS GONE!  
AND PANCHO  
HAVE NO  
WINGS!

YOU DON'T NEED  
THEM! COME! THIS  
WAY, PANCHO!



STAY CLOSE TO THE  
ROCK, AMIGO, OR---

DO NOT SAY IT!  
ALREADY PANCHO  
SMELL THE FUNERAL  
FLOWERS!



WE WILL BE OUT OF  
DANGER SOON! AFTER  
WE CROSS THAT  
NATURAL BRIDGE---

NOW LOCO MUST--  
(GROAN!) BE THE  
ROPE-TIGHT WALKER!



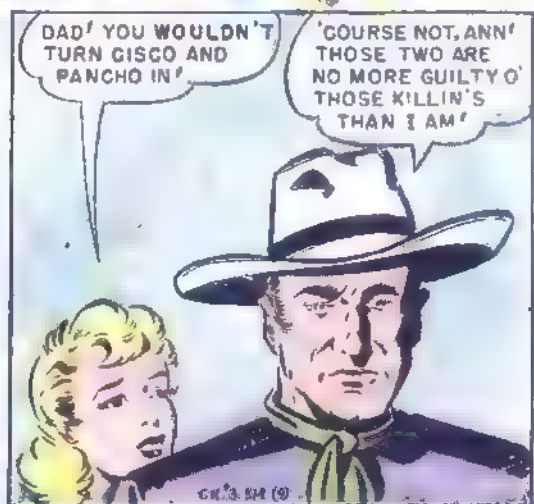
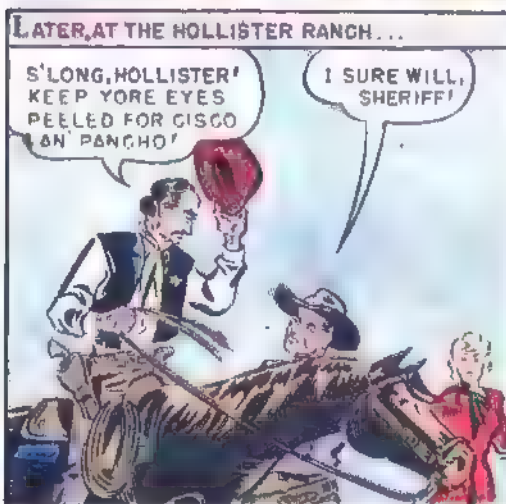
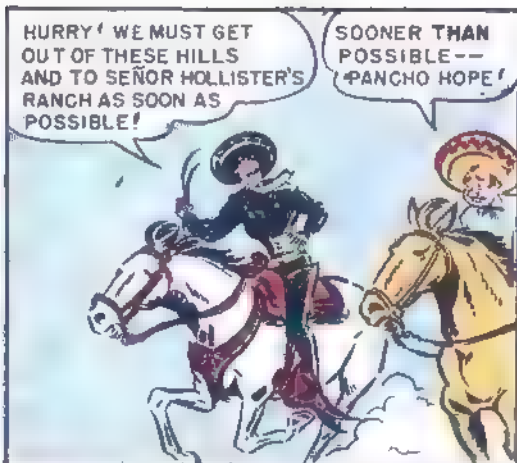
IT IS NOT THAT  
NARROW! SEE! THE  
BRIDGE IS PLENTY  
WIDE FOR THE  
HORSES TO WALK!

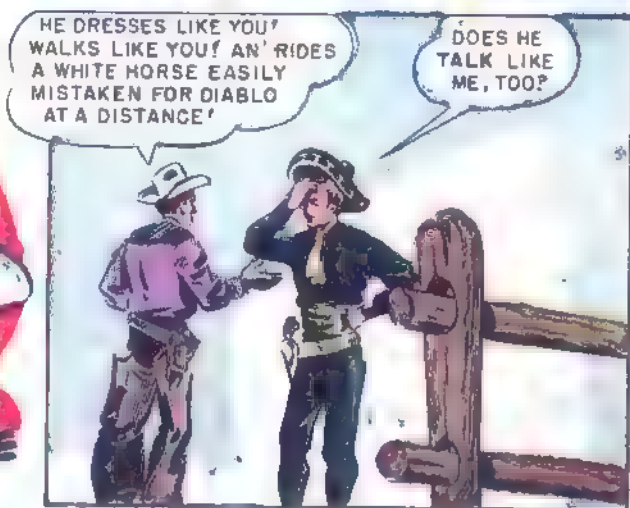
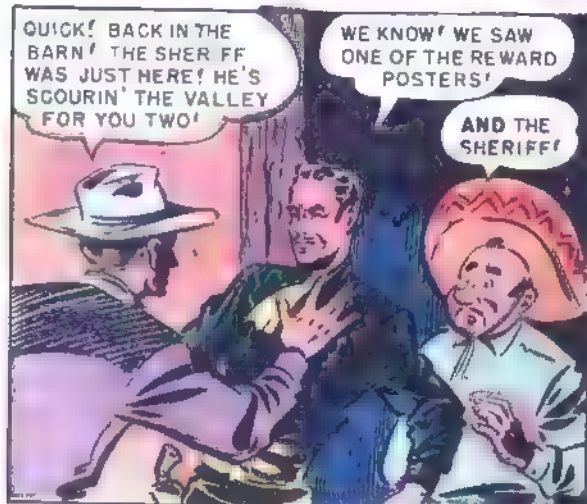
SI! IF YOU  
LOOK AT IT  
TWICE!



WHEW! PANCHO  
IS GLAD THAT IS  
OVER!

SO AM I! BUT IF  
WE HAD NOT TAKEN  
THAT TRAIL, THE  
POSSE WOULD HAVE  
TAKEN US!

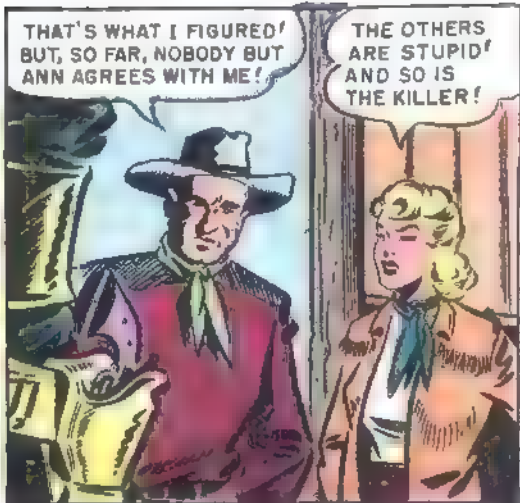






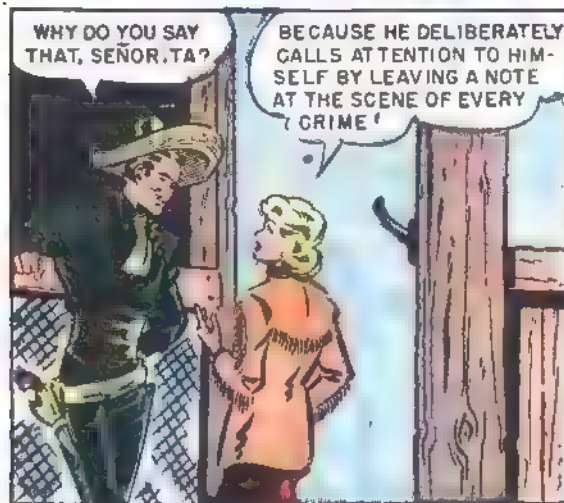
NOBODY KNOWS! HE NEVER SPEAKS! THAT'S WHY THEY'RE CALLING HIM 'THE SILENT KILLER'!

AHA! THEN HE IS AFRAID HIS VOICE WILL GIVE HIS REAL IDENTITY AWAY!



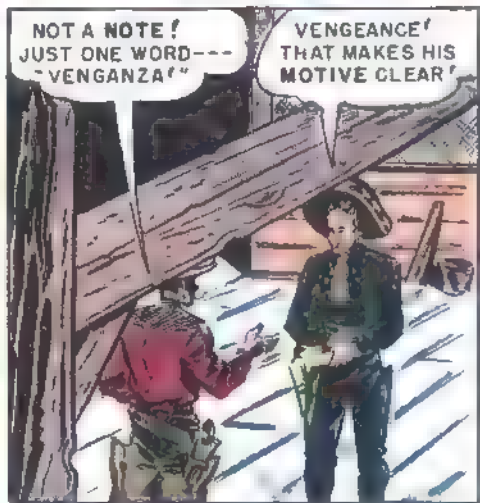
THAT'S WHAT I FIGURED! BUT, SO FAR, NOBODY BUT ANN AGREES WITH ME!

THE OTHERS ARE STUPID! AND SO IS THE KILLER!



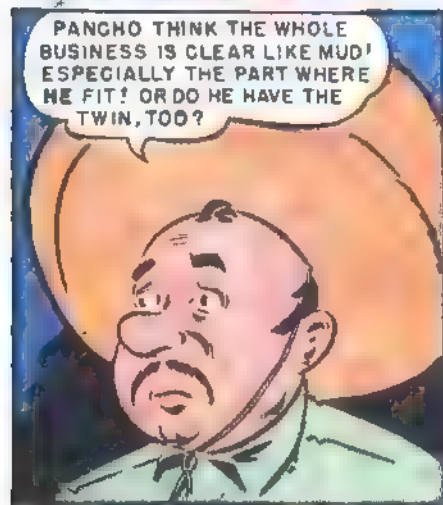
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT, SEÑOR. TA?

BECAUSE HE DELIBERATELY CALLS ATTENTION TO HIMSELF BY LEAVING A NOTE AT THE SCENE OF EVERY CRIME!

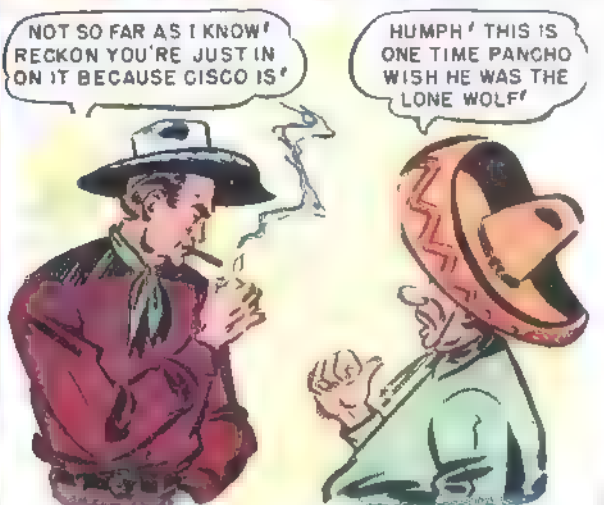


NOT A NOTE! JUST ONE WORD--- "VENGANZA!"

VENGEANCE! THAT MAKES HIS MOTIVE CLEAR!

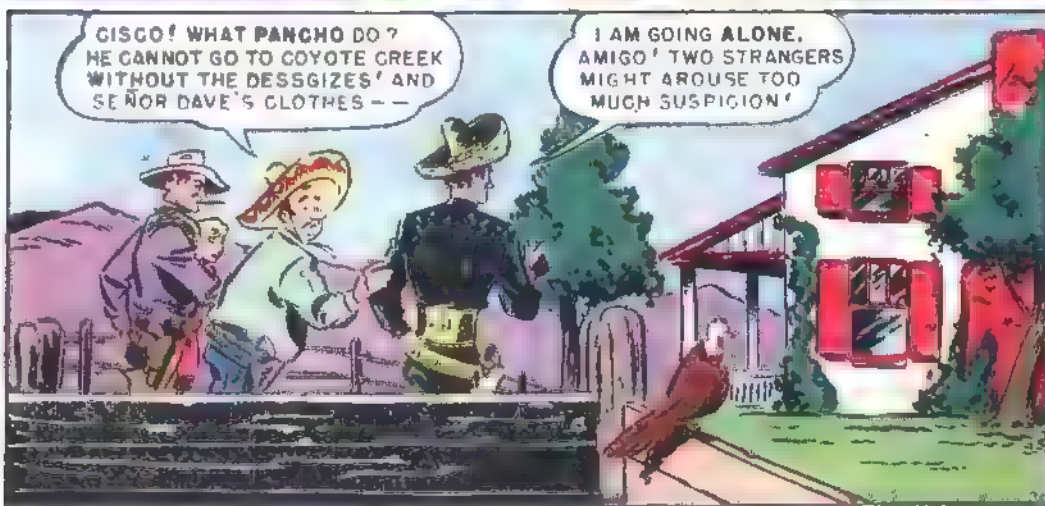
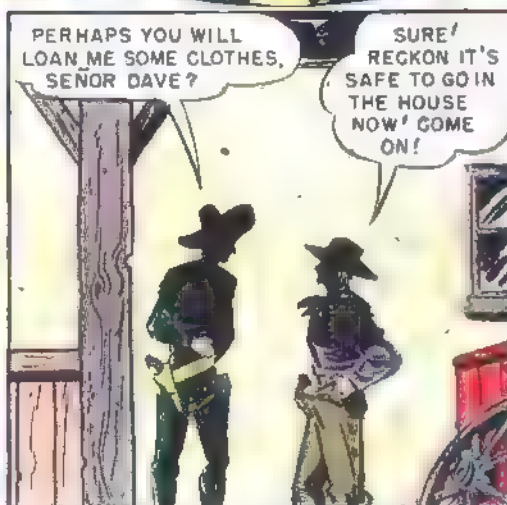
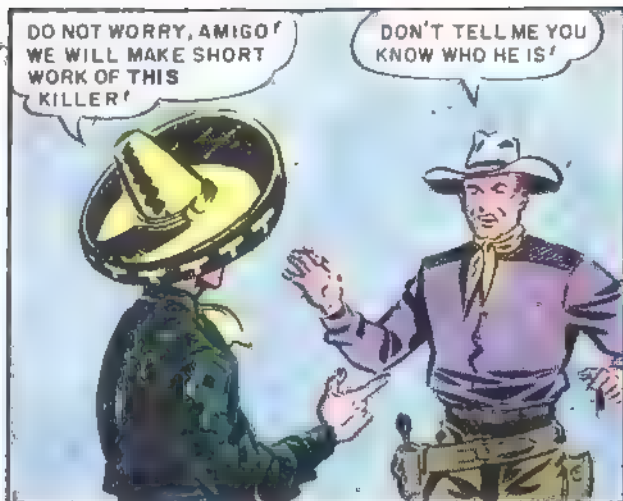


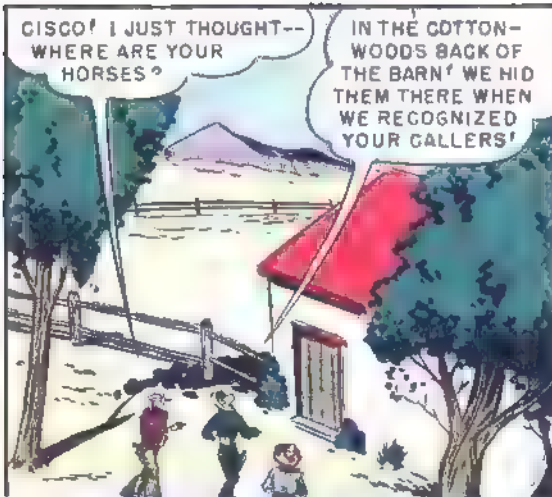
PANCHO THINK THE WHOLE BUSINESS IS CLEAR LIKE MUD! ESPECIALLY THE PART WHERE HE FIT! OR DO HE HAVE THE TWIN, TOO?



NOT SO FAR AS I KNOW! RECKON YOU'RE JUST IN ON IT BECAUSE CISCO IS!

HUMPH! THIS IS ONE TIME PANCHO WISH HE WAS THE LONE WOLF!





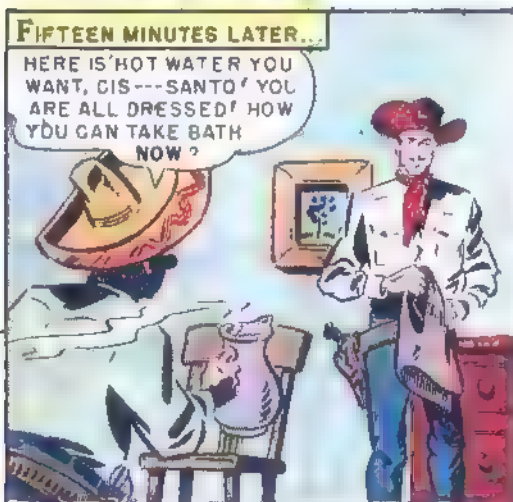
CISCO! I JUST THOUGHT--  
WHERE ARE YOUR  
HORSES?

IN THE COTTON-  
WOODS BACK OF  
THE BARN! WE HID  
THEM THERE WHEN  
WE RECOGNIZED  
YOUR GALLERS!



I'LL PUT THEM IN A  
SAFER HIDIN' PLACE!  
ANN CAN SHOW YOU TO  
MY ROOM! HELP YOUR-  
SELF TO ANYTHING  
YOU WANT!

GRACIAS!



FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...

HERE IS 'HOT WATER YOU  
WANT, CIS---SANTO! YOU  
ARE ALL DRESSED! HOW  
YOU CAN TAKE BATH  
NOW?



I DID NOT WANT  
THIS FOR A BATH---  
BUT FOR A SHAVE!

BUT YOU  
SHAVE ONLY  
THIS MORNING!



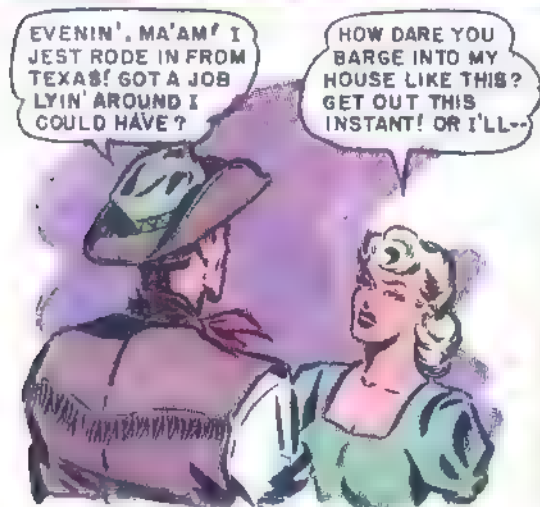
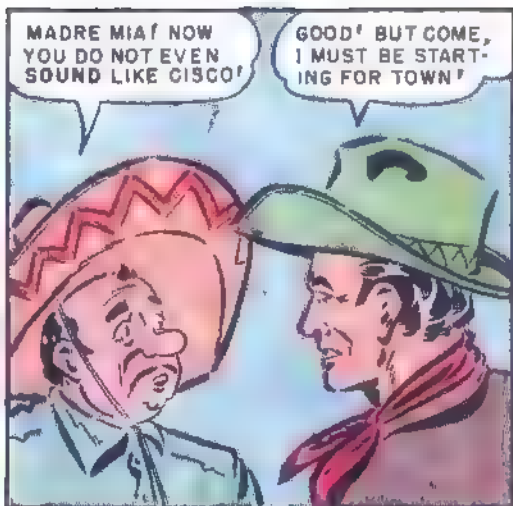
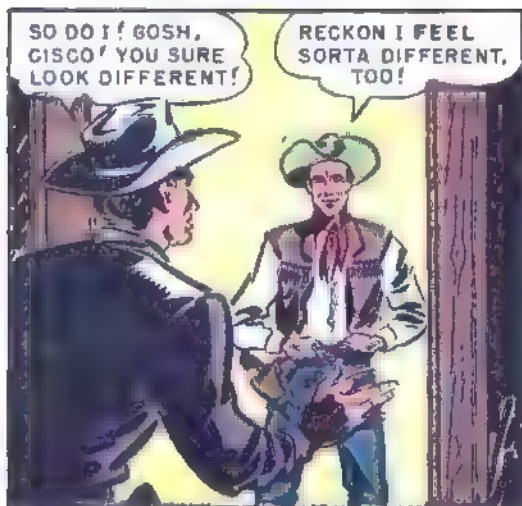
BUT I DID NOT  
SHAVE MY  
UPPER LIP!

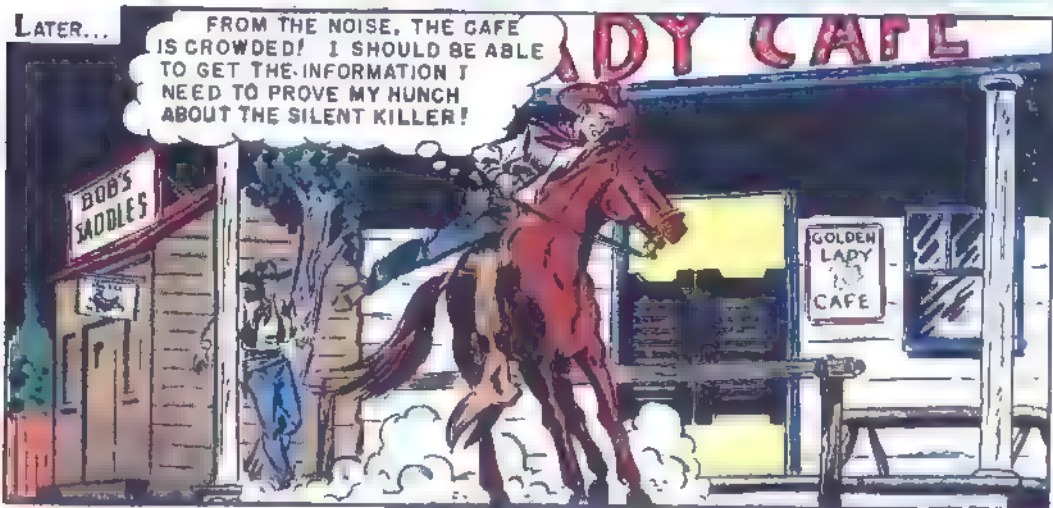
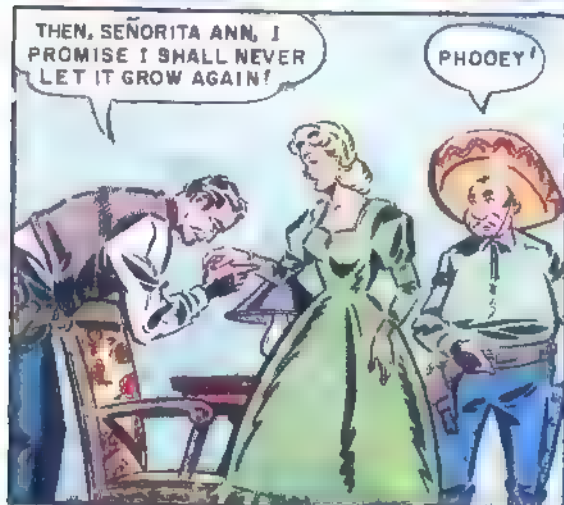
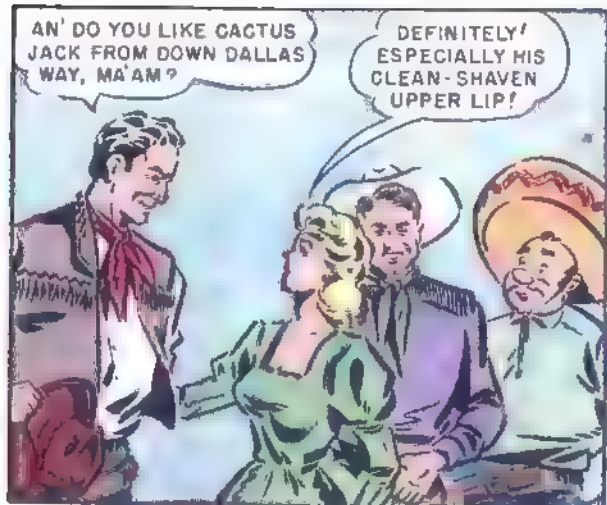


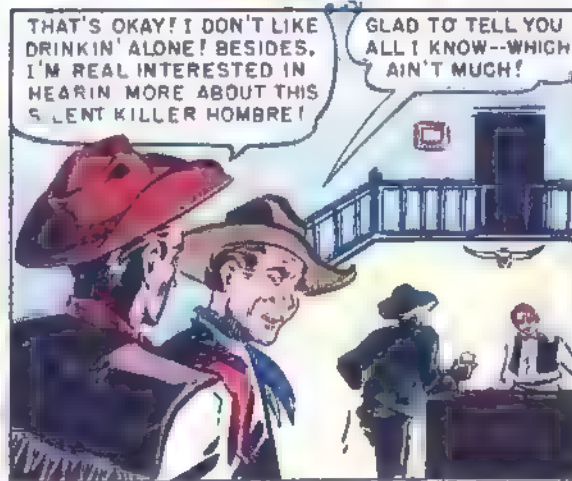
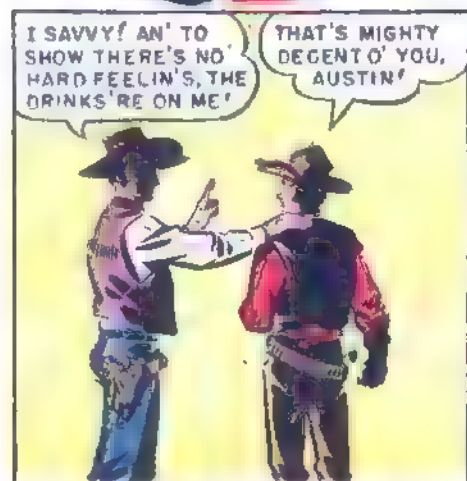
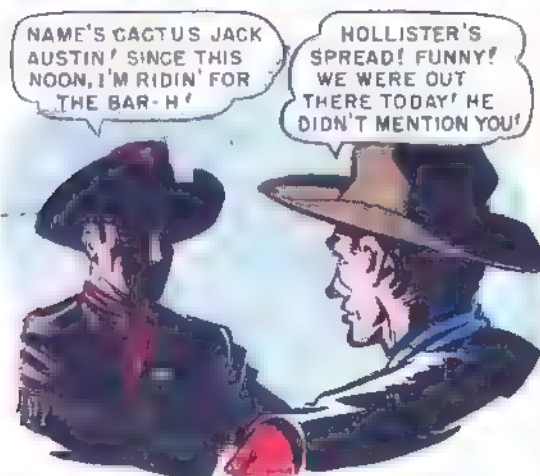
AY-EEE! NOT THE  
BEAUTIFUL MOUSTACHE!



NOW I OARE  
SHERIFF FIELD TO  
RECOGNIZE ME!







MEANWHILE AT THE BAR-H.

HO-HUM! IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY! RECKON I'LL TURN IN' HOW ABOUT YOU, PANCHO?

PANCHO NOT SLEEPY! HE IS WORRYING ABOUT CISCO!



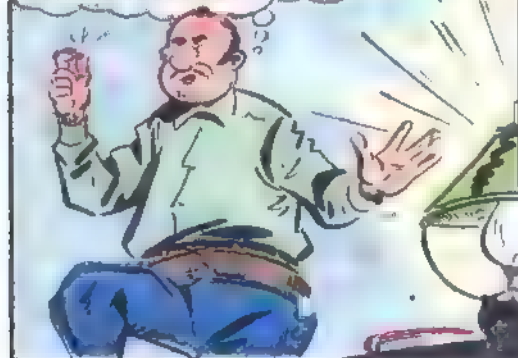
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM! THOSE CLOTHES AN' THAT TEXAS DRAW! LL HOODWINK ANYBODY!

HUMPH!



HALF AN HOUR LATER...

SANTO! PANCHO IS FULL OF FIDGETS! HE IS GOT TO GO TO TOWN! BUT WHAT HE CAN USE FOR THE DESSG ZES?



AHA! THE SERAPE! PANCHO WILL BE THE MEXICANO LABORER!

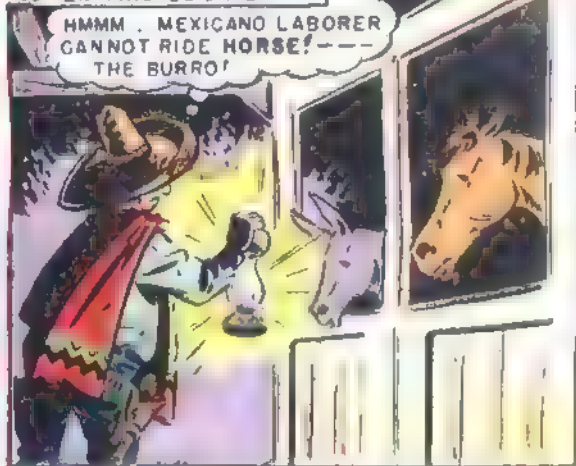


NOW PANCHO WINKHOOD ALL THE PEOPLES, TOO!



A FEW MINUTES LATER

HMMM - MEXICANO LABORER CANNOT RIDE HORSE! --- THE BURRO!



WAKE UP, BURRO! WE GOT TO HURRY! OR WE NOT GET TO COYOTE CREEK TILL TWO DAYS FROM YESTERDAY!



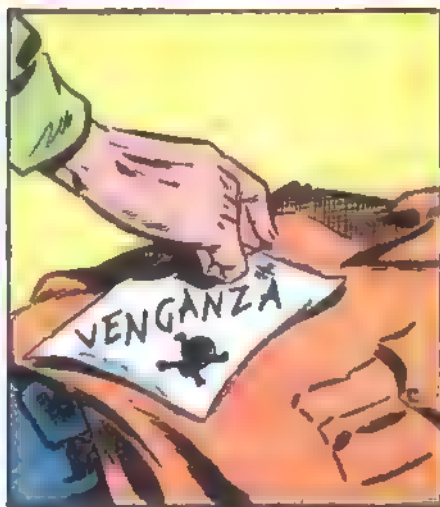
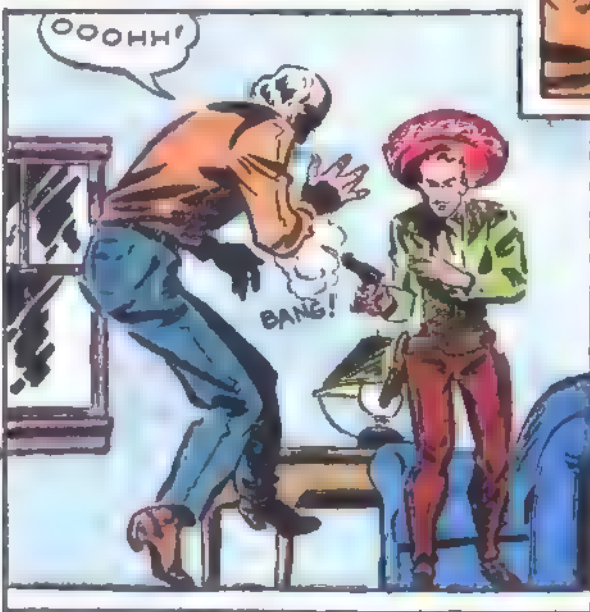
AS PANCHO HEADS FOR TOWN, AT A NEAR BY RANCH

DON'T SHOOT! I'LL PAY YOU ANYTHING! I LL--

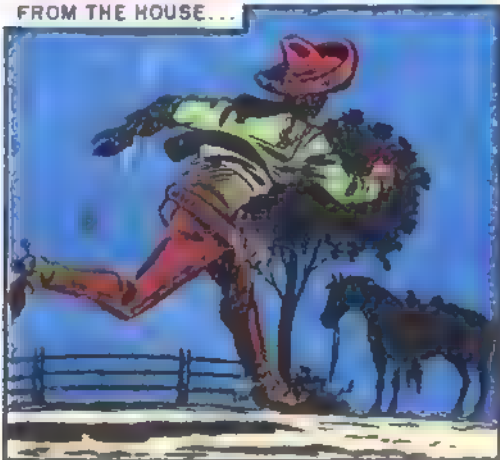


OOOHH!

BANG!

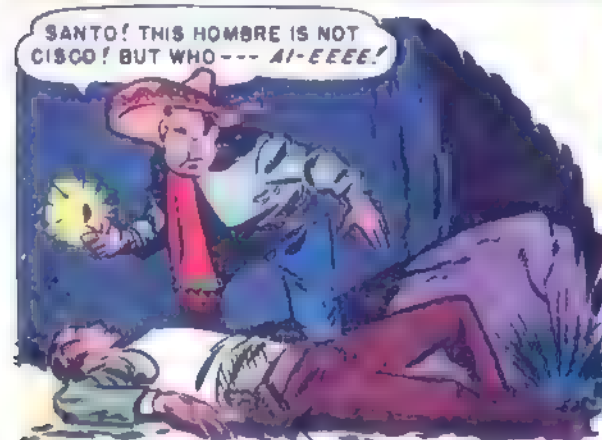
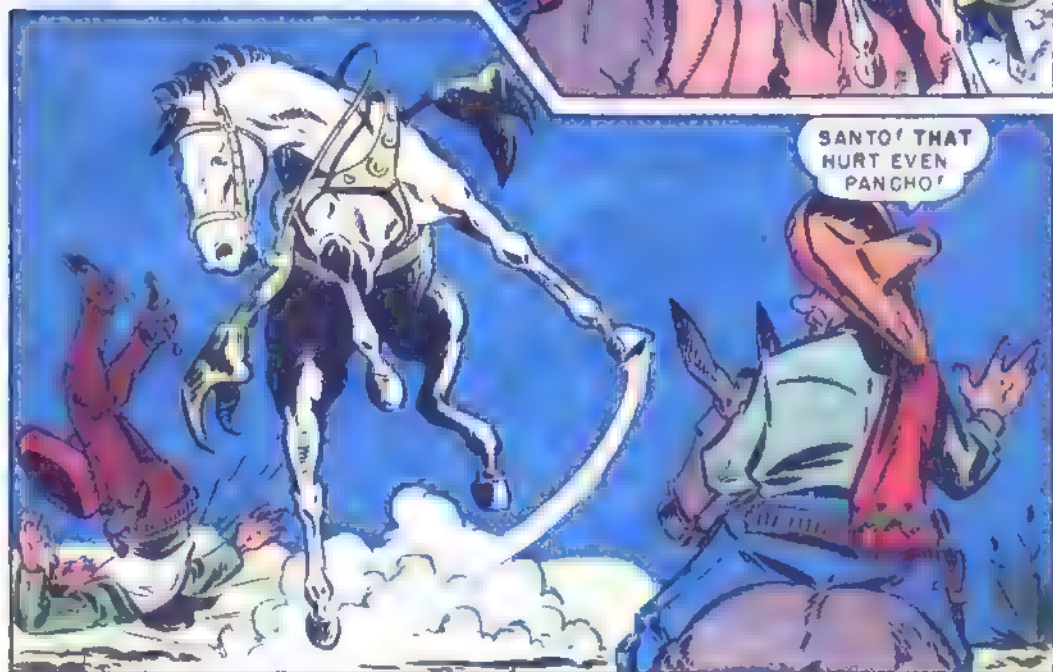
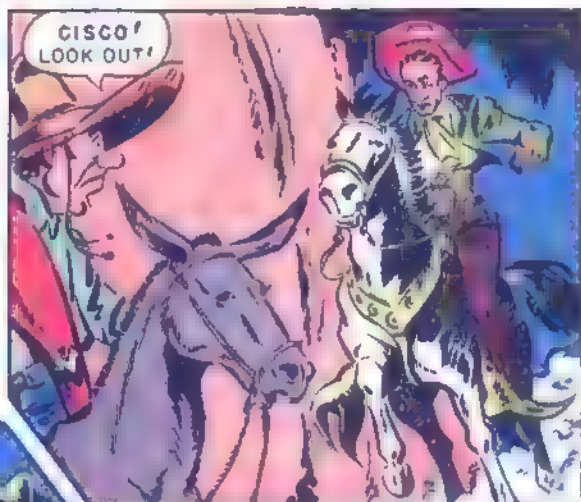


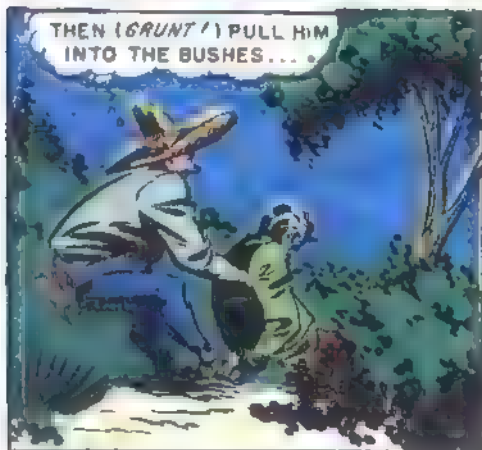
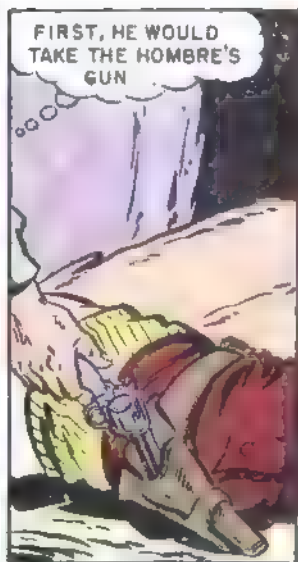
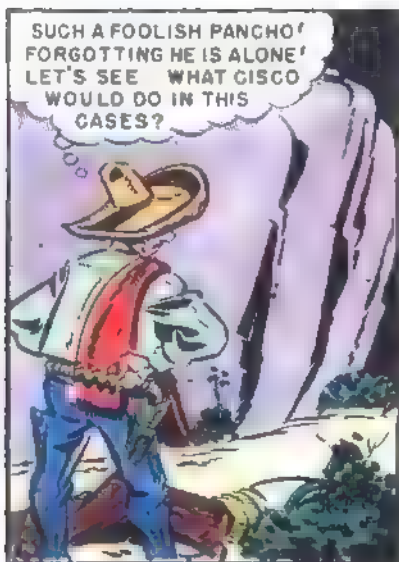
THE SILENT KILLER MOVES SWIFTLY FROM THE HOUSE...

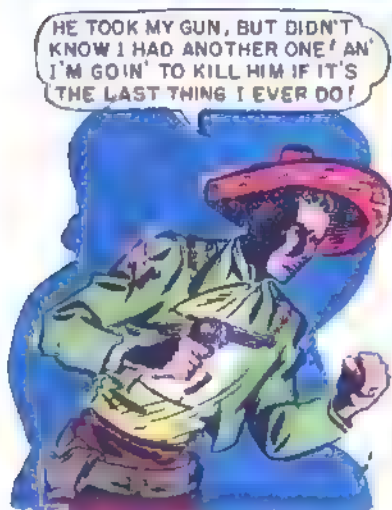
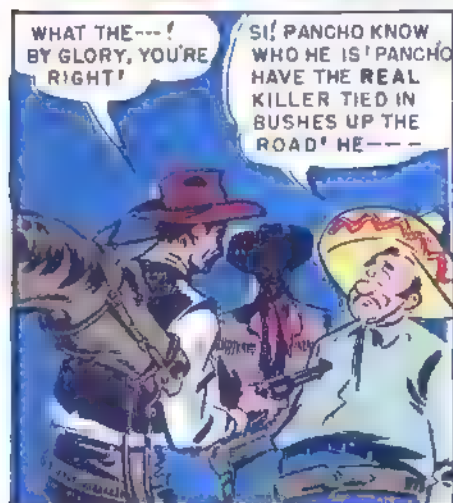
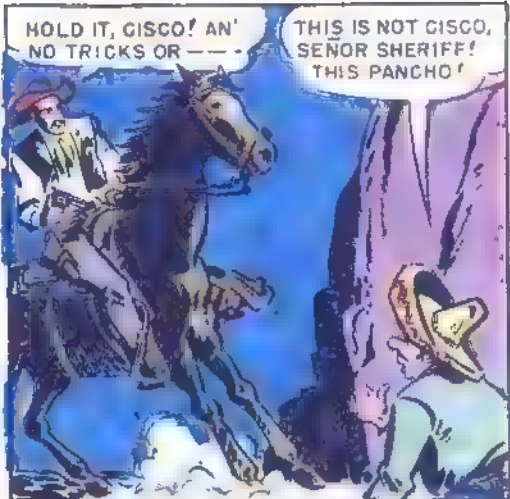
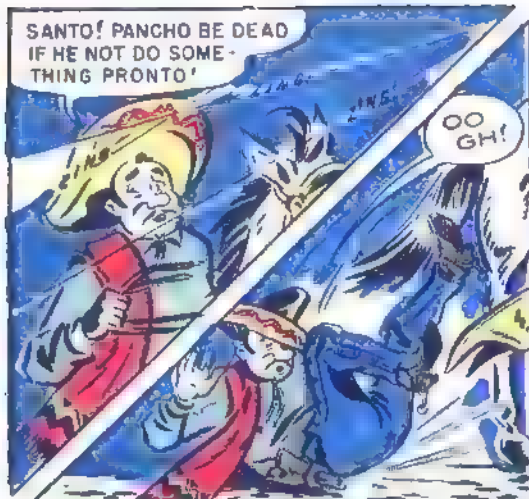


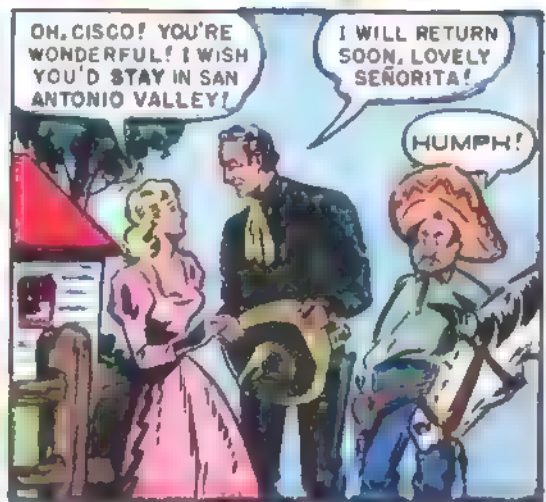
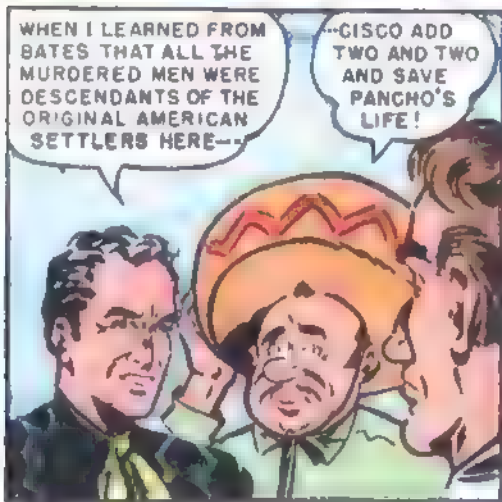
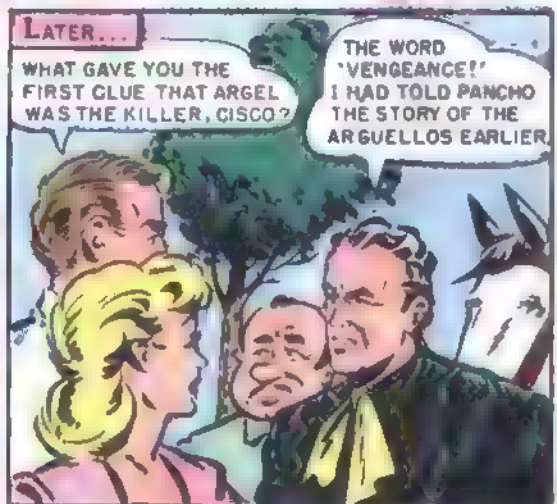
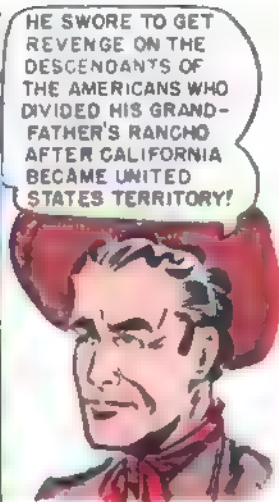
...AND THUNDERS AWAY INTO THE NIGHT!











# THE CISCO KID

IN THE  
DOUBLE  
FAILURE

UMMM!-- WHEN PANCHO IS HUNGRY, CISCO, NOTHING TASTE SO GOOD LIKE THE FRIJOLE!

OR THE TAMALES--OR THE TACOS---OR THE--- CAREFUL! YOU WILL SPILL THAT TOP-HEAVY PLATE!

SUCH FOOLISH TALK! ONE THING PANCHO NEVER SPILL IS FOOD!

BLAM!

SANTO!

WHERE IS HE -- THAT SHOT-POTTER? PANCHO BLOW HIM TO SMITHERHOONS!

THAT SHOT WAS NOT AIMED AT US, AMIGO! IT CAME FROM THE ROAD BELOW!

BLAM!  
KERANNNG!  
BLAM!

MADRE MIA! SIX MILLION MORE GUNSHOTS! WHAT IS HAPPEN DOWN THERE?

GIVE ME TIME TO REACH THE TOP OF THIS ROCK, AND PERHAPS I WILL BE ABLE TO SEE!



AS CISCO LEAPS FROM THE ROCK, HE SIGNALS FOR DIABLO



THE GREAT STALLION RESPONDS INSTANTLY...



THE POOR FRIJOLES!  
AND PANCHE WAS  
SO HUNGRY!

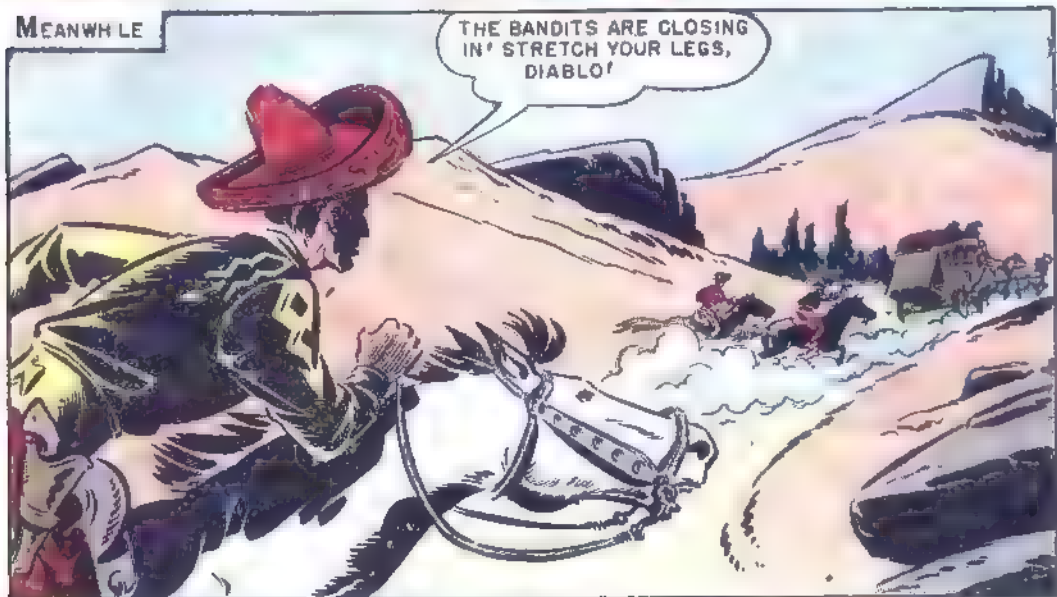


DOGGONE IT TO BLAZES! WHY  
THE BANDITS NEVER WAIT TILL  
AFTER PANCHE HAS EAT?

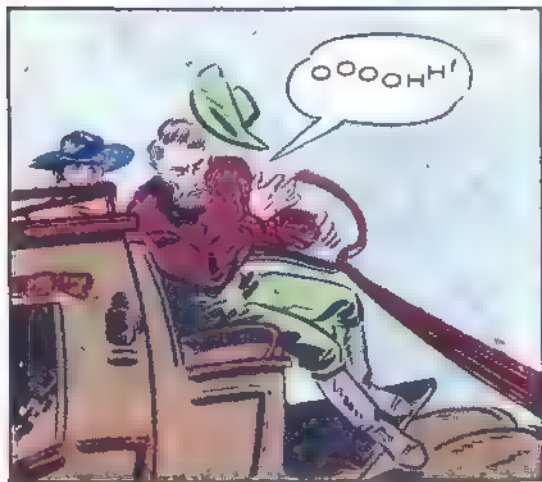


MEANWHILE

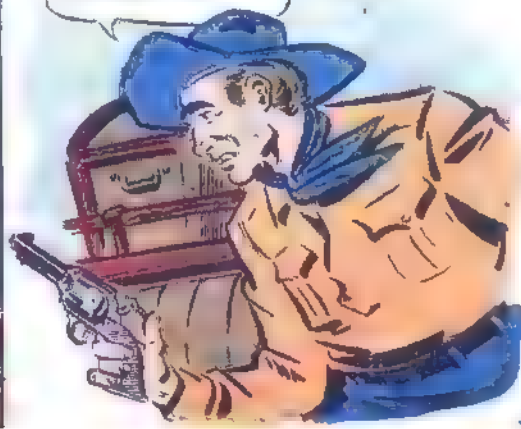
THE BANDITS ARE CLOSING  
IN! STRETCH YOUR LEGS,  
DIABLO!

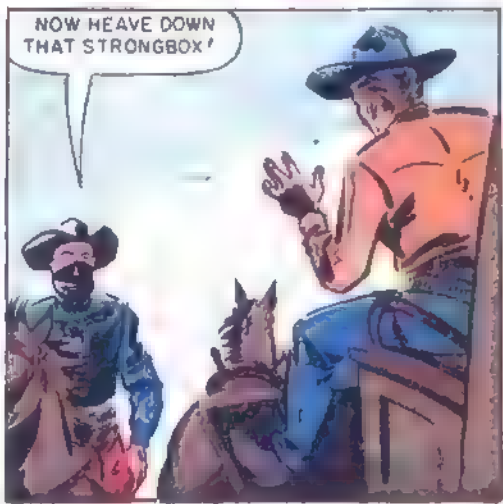
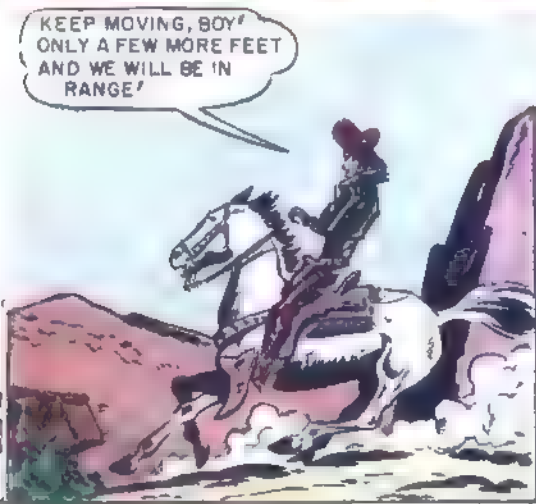
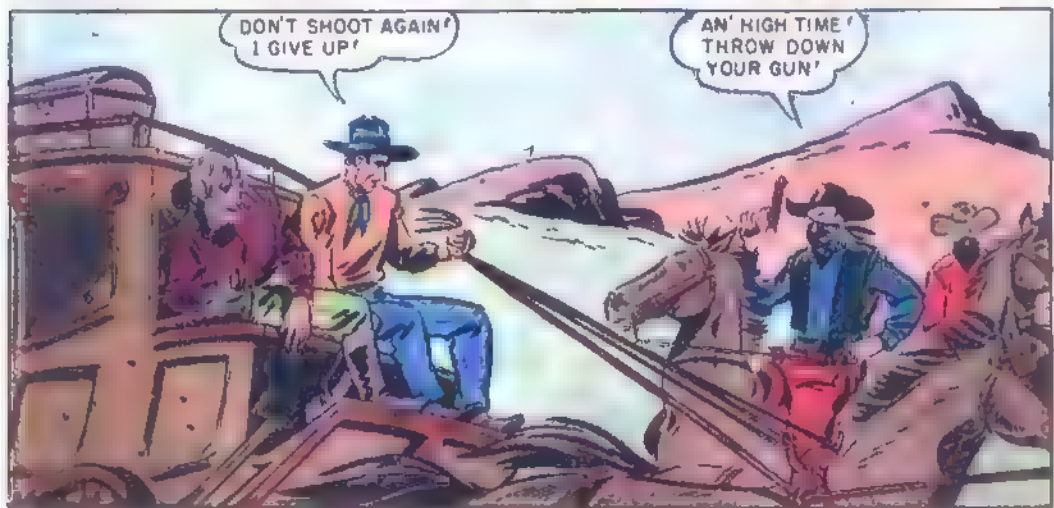
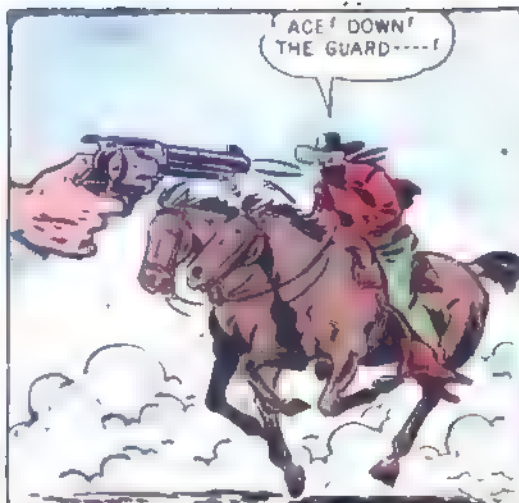


OOOOHH!



MURDERIN' VARMINTS!  
I'LL SHOW 'EM!





AS THE DRIVER REACHES FOR THE STRONGBOX



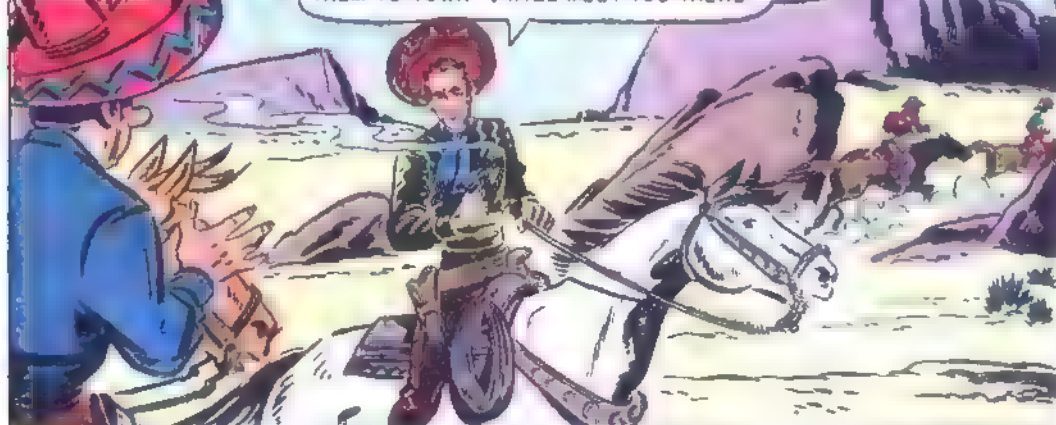
NOT ME! I'M CLEARIN' OUT! THAT JASPER'S A SHOOTIN' FOOL!

YOU SAID IT! PUNCH THE BREEZE!



DISCO! WAIT FOR PANCHE!

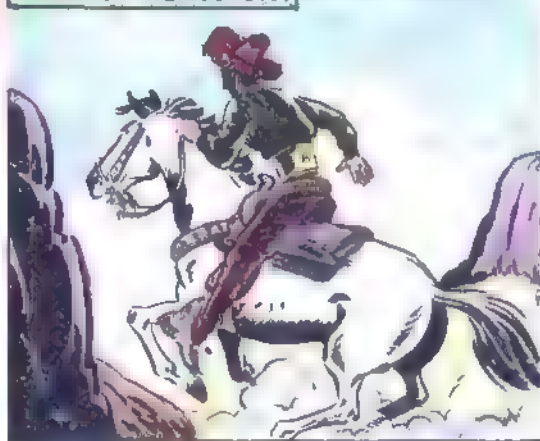
AND LOSE THE BANDITS? BESIDES, THE DRIVER AND GUARD ARE HURT! YOU MUST DRIVE THEM TO TOWN! I WILL MEET YOU THERE!



SANTO! TODAY PANCHE IS LIKE THE TAIL OF THE COW! ALWAYS BEHIND!



AT ALMOST FULL GALLOP, DIABLO RACES UP THROUGH THE ROCKS...



UNTIL

D'ABLO! WHAT  
S WRONG? I DO  
NOT SEE



CRAASH!



BACK, DIABLO!  
AND UP!



DEATH BRUSHED AGAINST  
US THAT TIME, DIABLO!  
NO MISTAKE!



I CAN'T MAKE  
OUT IF IT HIT  
OR---

IT STOPPED  
HIM! WHICH MEANS  
WE'VE GOT TIME TO  
CUT OVER THE RIDGE.  
DOUBLE BACK, AN'  
CATCH THE STAGE  
IN BLACK ROCK  
PASS!



Y' MEAN WE'RE GUNNA  
MAKE ANOTHER TRY  
FOR THAT GOLO'

YEAH! AN THIS TIME  
WE'RE GONNA GET IT!

WITH THE DRIVER DEAD-- AN  
THE GUARD HURT--- AN THAT  
COWPOKE PROWLIN' THESE  
ROCKS FOR OUR TRAIL, THERE  
WILL BE NOBODY TO STOP US!



IT'S NO USE,  
DIABLO! I CANNOT  
BUDGE IT!



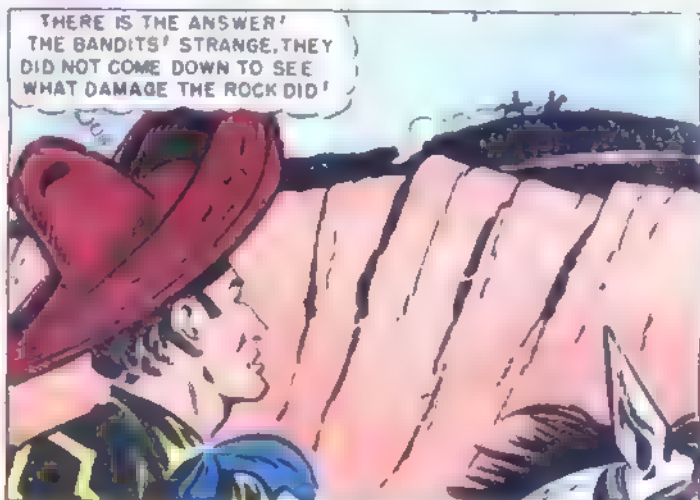
THEREFORE, WE WILL  
POSTPONE OUR MAN-  
HUNT AND--- WHAT  
NOW?



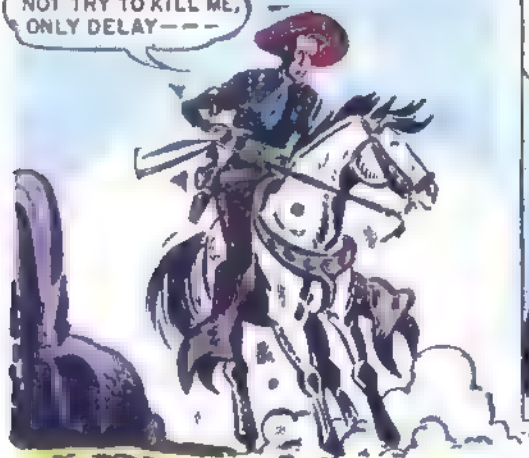
PEBBLES! BUT NOW  
DISLODGED? BY  
HOOF, SHOES, OR  
ANIMAL PAWS?



THERE IS THE ANSWER!  
THE BANDITS' STRANGE, THEY  
DID NOT COME DOWN TO SEE  
WHAT DAMAGE THE ROCK DID!



PERHAPS THEY DID  
NOT TRY TO KILL ME,  
ONLY DELAY ---

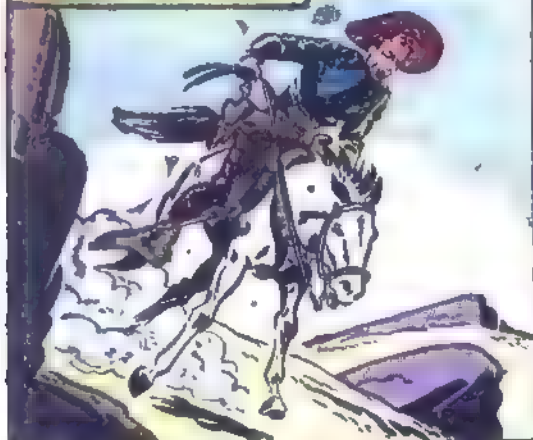


UP, DIABLO! I HAVE AN  
UNHAPPY HUNCH! IF I'M RIGHT,  
GREAT DANGER LIES AHEAD FOR  
PANCHO! WE MUST CATCH UP  
TO HIM PRONTO!



SANTO! THE DUST FROM THE WHEELS  
AND HOOFES HAS ALREADY SETTLED!  
WE MUST GO LIKE THE WIND, DIABLO,  
OR BE TOO LATE!

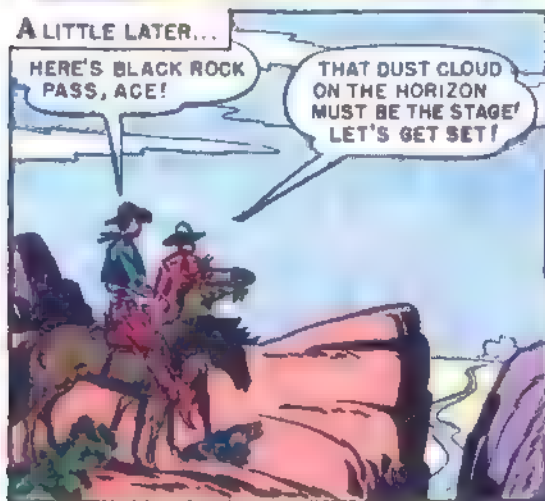
SENSING HIS MASTER'S ANXIETY, DIABLO  
THUNDERS DOWNTRAIL...



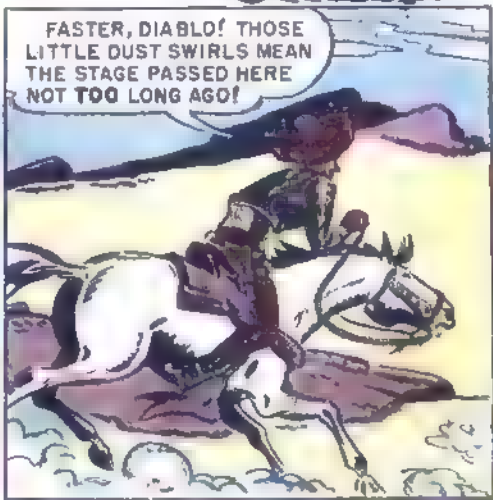
A LITTLE LATER...

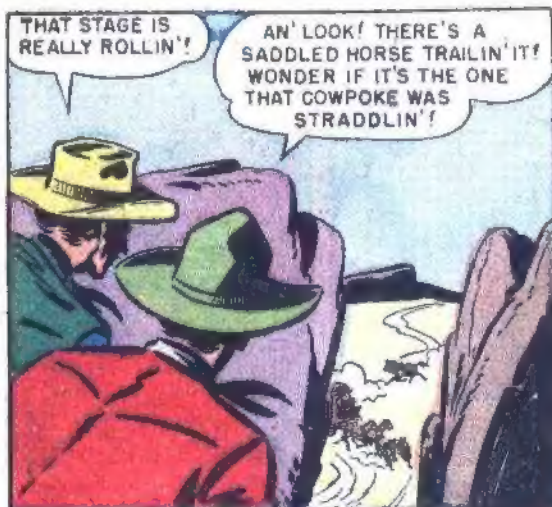
HERE'S BLACK ROCK  
PASS, ACE!

THAT DUST CLOUD  
ON THE HORIZON  
MUST BE THE STAGE!  
LET'S GET SET!



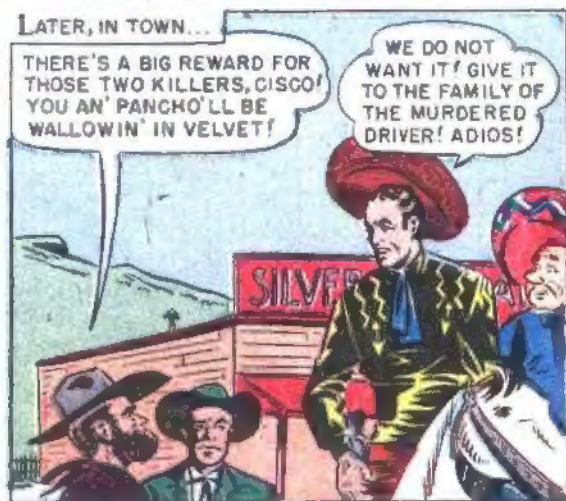
FASTER, DIABLO! THOSE  
LITTLE DUST SWIRLS MEAN  
THE STAGE PASSED HERE  
NOT TOO LONG AGO!





MEANWHILE...





# WINCHESTER GUNFIGHTER



NOT ALL OF THE OLD WEST'S GUNFIGHTERS USED THE FAMILIAR .45 COLT, SINGLE ACTION REVOLVER! A FEW OF THESE GUNSLINGERS RELIED ON THE WELL-KNOWN WINCHESTER REPEATING RIFLE! "WINCHESTER JACK", WHO DERIVED HIS NAME FROM HIS WEAPON, USED A .44-40 WINCHESTER, '92 MODEL WITH A 14 INCH BARREL.

USING THE SAWED-OFF WINCHESTER AS A HANDGUN, HE PERFECTED A FAST DEADLY MANNER OF FIRING! HOLDING IT IN HIS RIGHT HAND, HE COULD COCK THE GUN WITH A LIGHTNING FLIP OF THE LEVER ACTION!



THRUSTING THE RIFLE FORWARD AND BRACING THE BUTT AGAINST HIS HIP, "WINCHESTER JACK" COULD FIRE IN RAPID SUCCESSION WITH DEVASTATING, DEADLY EFFECT! THIS WEAPON, ALONG WITH THE SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN BECAME HIGHLY RESPECTED AND FEARED WEAPONS IN FRONTIER BATTLES!



Courtesy American Museum of Natural History, New York